

**FTA Section 5317  
New Freedom Transit Program  
Federal Fiscal Year 2012**

**PROGRAM FACT SHEET AND TIMELINE**

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**Program Purpose:** To provide additional tools to overcome existing barriers facing Americans with disabilities seeking integration into the work force and full participation in society. The New Freedom formula grant program seeks to reduce barriers to transportation services and expands the transportation mobility options available to people with disabilities beyond the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

**Funds Available**

- \* Approximately \$950 thousand in federal funds (including Toll Credits) are available for this cycle to be applied to urbanized areas 50,000 to 199,999 in population;
- \* Approximately \$481 thousand in federal funds (including Toll Credits) are available for this cycle for non-urbanized areas less than 50,000 in population.

**Eligible Applicants:**

- \* Private non-profit corporations;
- \* State or local government authority;
- \* Operators of public transportation services, including private operators of public transportation services.

**Local Match Requirements:** This grant cycle will not require a minimum local match, as 100% in federal funds will be made available upon FTA approval of Toll Credits to be used for local match requirement.

**Coordinated Plans:** All projects selected for funding must be derived from a coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan as required by federal guidance. Grant applications must include a Coordinated Plan Certification.

**Project Eligibility:** For the purpose of the New Freedom Program, "new" service is any service or activity that was not operational and did not have an identified funding source as of August 10, 2005, as evidenced by inclusion in the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) or the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Applicants may apply for up to three (3) years of funding per project with a maximum of \$200,000 per year. Eligible projects may include, but are not limited to, capital, planning, and operating assistance to support the following activities meeting the definition of new public transportation:

- \* Expansion of paratransit service parameters beyond the three-fourths (3/4) mile required by the ADA
- \* Expansion of current hours of operation for ADA paratransit services that are beyond those provided on the fixed-route services
- \* Feeder service for intercity travel for which paratransit service is not required
- \* The incremental costs of providing same day service
- \* Supporting the administration and expenses related to voucher programs
- \* Acquisition of accessibility equipment beyond ADA requirements
- \* Accessibility improvement to non-key stations (Project engineers and/or sponsorship by a Governmental Lead Agency is required)
- \* Accessible vehicles to support taxi, vanpooling, ridesharing
- \* Mobility management activities

**Planning Requirements:** To be eligible for funding, JARC projects in urbanized areas must be included in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan prepared and approved by the metropolitan planning organization (MPO), the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) developed by the State, and jointly approved by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.

Projects outside the urbanized areas must be included in, or consistent with, a long-range transportation plan and be included in the STIP.

**PROGRAM NOTE:**

*New Freedom project applications will be evaluated in accordance with the scoring criteria published in the Application Instructions to determine the extent to which the proposed project meets the overall program goals and objectives. Applicants in small-urban areas which have an MPO/RTPA who are MOU participants, will submit their application to the Small Urban Area Local Agency (see Grant Application Instruction for list of MOU Participants.) Caltrans DMT will conduct the entire JARC/NF competitive selection process for non-MOU small urbanized areas and all rural (non-urban) areas.*

**FTA 5317 PROGRAM TIMELINE**

November 15, 2012	Call for projects
January 21-31, 2013	Grant application workshops
March 29, 2013	Applications due to Small Urban Area Local Agency (MOU participants only)
April 19, 2013	ALL applications due to Caltrans DMT ( <b>must be postmarked by this date</b> )
June 2013	Completion of state review, evaluation, and program of projects selection
June/July 2013	Tentative Award Announcement Initiate transfers of small urban projects to Section 5307 Project programming
July/August 2013	Submission of FTA grant for approval
September 2013	FTA grant approval
October 2013	Schedule successful applicant workshops
December 2013	Final award announcement Issuance of standard agreements to subrecipients

*For more information please visit our website at:  
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/MassTrans/5316.html>*